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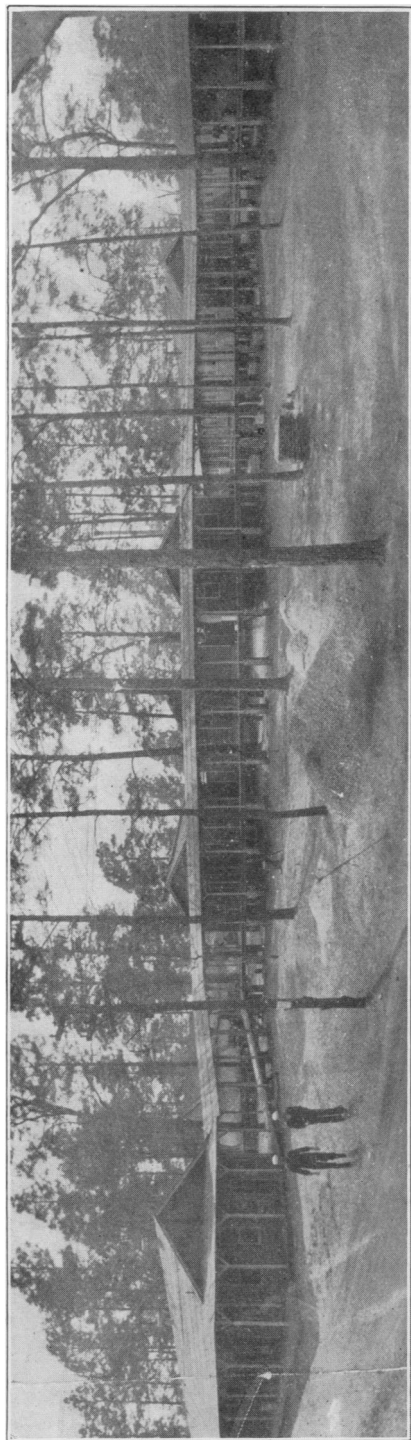
until next spring. The morale of the house decides the morale of the soldier in the fighting line. We can do this by giving to them the greatest possible freedom in their food supply, and of this, wheat is the chief factor.

THE NAVAL HOSPITAL AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

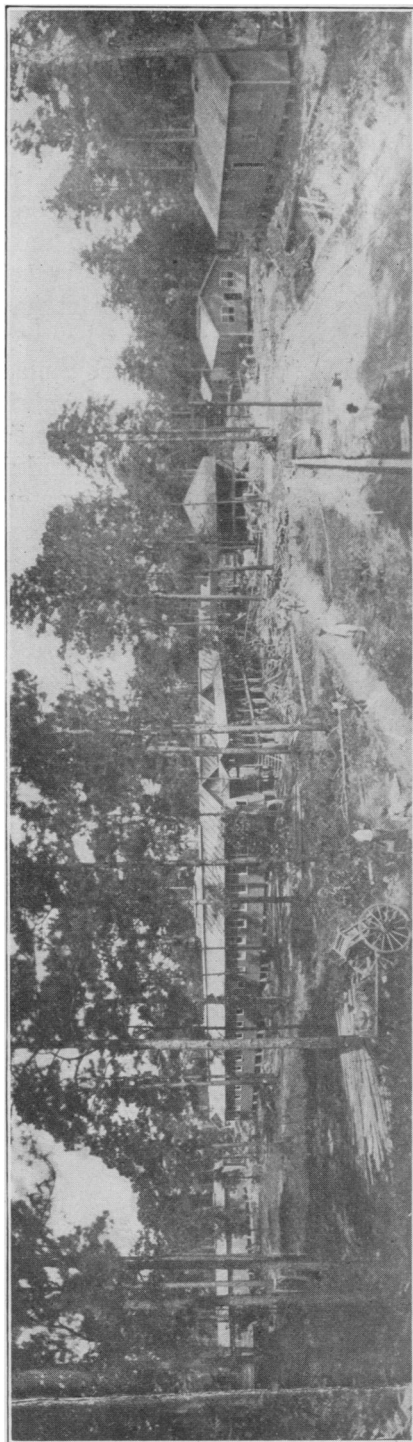
BY I. GRACE KLINE

The seamen's training camp was established at the Charleston Navy Yard at the outbreak of the war. Sickness in the camp, and drafts of patients from the ships necessitated a naval hospital. A site on the highest ground, in a grove of pine trees adjacent to the Navy Yard, was selected and the building of the hospital was begun July 1, 1917.

The buildings are of the emergency type, built of hard white pine, according to specifications furnished by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, U. S. Navy Department. Five wards, each with a capacity for forty-two patients, constitute the hospital space which is frequently increased by the addition of hospital tents, as the need arises. The census of the hospital ranges between two and four hundred, according to the prevalence of disease in the training camp, and the ships in port.



Hospital Buildings, Charleston, S. C., During Construction



Corridors Connecting Hospital Buildings, Charleston, S. C.

The wards are separate, with an exposure on four sides to the air and light. They are connected by covered walks, and a solarium, where the bed patients may be taken on their Gatch frames, provides ideal out-of-door treatment for those who need it. Operating rooms, specialty rooms, and laboratory occupy separate buildings. Mess halls, galley, store room and laundry and all the necessary adjuncts of a hospital, help to form an interesting group of buildings. The contagious unit occupies a restricted area. Mumps, measles, chicken pox, and occasionally scarlet fever, constitute the usual range of contagion.

A large hall provides a class room for the corps men, and there is a recreation hall where entertainments are given for the hospital personnel and the convalescent patients. A pool room, canteen and barber shop are also in the building.

The Commanding Officer and Executive Surgeon perform duties similar to those of the superintendent and assistant superintendent of a civil hospital. The Chief Nurse takes the place of the superintendent of a school of nursing; the nurses have charge positions in the wards, operating rooms and dressing rooms. The hospital corps men are the pupil nurses.

The hours of duty for the nurse, in the naval hospital, are arranged in three shifts, with time for "chow," and ten hours for the night nurse. A regular routine is laid out for the day and for each day in the week, which uniformity prevails throughout the naval hospitals, and makes possible the accomplishment of much more work. The wards are in order at a certain hour for sick call and inspection. Sick call is made twice a day by the ward officer, attended by the nurse in charge, and the senior hospital corps man.

The advantage of training in a home military hospital is soon recognized even by the nurse who "signed up for foreign service," and the majority of the nurse corps settles down, happy in the service they are able to render, knowing that the men must be put in condition at home before they can "go over."

The work of the nurse is a diversified one, including teaching and supervising the nursing procedures of the hospital apprentices. Her opportunities for teaching are unlimited. Great restraint must be practiced also, not to assume too much of the nursing, in order that the apprentice may have all possible experience. The corps man is the only nurse on board the fleet, and in many instances the only representative of the medical profession on board many of the small boats. His sense of responsibility must be cultivated, and no opportunity lost to put home the lesson. "Precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little there a little," is the nurse's duty to the apprentice.

The apprentice is required to have certain educational qualifications, and the corps today is filled with college, professional and business men.

The patient, when convalescent, is also the nurse's pupil, for he is responsible for the neatness and cleanliness of his bed and locker, as well as having some ward cleaning detail. The "Navy bed" must be made exactly, which the men soon learn to do satisfactorily. The work of the wards is done entirely by the convalescent patients and the corps men. The wisdom of occupational therapy is demonstrated and the men are happier being useful, as well as acquiring much good training. They often say, "Gee, I am glad my mother can't see me, she'd discharge the hired girl when I go home."

The democracy of the Navy must result in a great leveling of social inequalities. Every man must do his share and no one is exempt. You ask a man if he knows how to clean windows, and he may say "No," but he always learns and his breeding must be exemplified by the product of his work. He is made to realize that his efficiency is increased by his response to the "job." The thoroughbred is not ashamed to show his thoroughness.

Order, obedience and cleanliness are the first important lessons to instil. If "Order is heaven's first law, and "Cleanliness is next to godliness," then the Navy is near the celestial kingdom. Every one scrubs, and the weekly grand inspection is preceded by such a chasing of dirt as would put the Gold Dust Twins to shame. This inspection impresses the nurse as a bit of camouflage at first, but the wisdom of the procedure dawns on her with the knowledge that the attending discipline is instrumental in maintaining order. The sailor's "liberty" is too coveted a privilege to risk losing the second time.

The status of the nurse, officially, is that of a head nurse in a civil hospital; professionally and socially, she is rated as an officer. It is difficult for the nurse to understand the justice of this ruling at first, when some of the finest timbre of our young manhood is of the enlisted personnel. Her own brother, friend, and sweetheart may be among them, and why, when she has no rank should she be subjected to officer's regulations? When she considers that the mere restriction is a recognition of rank, though ever so meager, she usually realizes that it is of too much professional value to treat lightly. In civil life an intimate friendship is not desirable with one's patients; so in military circles, reserve is a safeguard. Most of the patients are of the enlisted personnel. Cordial relations are desirable and possible, and the nurse is the confidant and adviser. The men are responsive creatures, sensitive to their environment, though stoical when "balled out," and appreciative of the least interest evinced in their welfare.

The opportunities for personal influence are enormous and the nursing care is often a minor part of the nurse's duty.

The Navy nurses' home life is most pleasant. There are those among us whose natural and acquired interests attract, but all are friends with a community interest. Professionally we are equals and each one is rated by her individual efficiency. The chief nurse is the connecting link between the staff and the commanding officer, and with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Her responsibilities are heavy and like the crowned head hers does not lie easy. She is the presiding genius of the nurses, and on her devolves much of the general atmosphere of the nurse corps, as well as the standard of nursing.

The nurses' quarters are the most desirable on the reservation. As the woman makes the home, so the nurse makes the quarters an abiding place. The cantonment hospital has its peculiar charm. The surroundings as well as the buildings are restful in the strangeness of their settings. The psychological influence of living in a grove of pine and live oak trees with the dog-wood blossoming in the month of March, and the song of the birds, is a compensation for many restrictions.

The hours of duty are changed every week when possible, and the Saturday afternoon, after inspection, is the looked-for event of the week. The afternoon nurse, who relieves at one o'clock, knows that next week it will be her day. Each one has a month of night duty in turn. The coveted "48," with liberty to travel anywhere within a radius of fifty miles, stirs one to a study of geography in search of the most attractive spot on its circumference.

When the nurses were called upon to part, finally, from one of their number, they were sad, but content that it is possible to die for one's country even in the womanly service of nursing. The military services held under the pine trees, in the full glory of the sun, made a picture pregnant with meaning. The flame of the scarlet lining of the nurses' capes against the white of the uniform gleamed like a symbol of sacrifice and the high uplifted countenances displayed determination to endure and to go over the top in the service regardless of the cost.

The Princess Victoria, King George's only unmarried sister, is assisting in the scheme to form a magnificent pearl necklace to be sold for the benefit of the sick and wounded. It is believed that generous women of all the Allied nations, who are owners of fine pearl necklaces, will be glad to give one of their finest pearls to form a splendid and historic Red Cross necklace.